

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 4, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18 and 19 in accordance with the following:

1. (previously presented) The processing system as set forth in claim 4,
wherein said storing device stores a plurality of service tables of the services, each of which includes a membership condition of a corresponding service,
wherein said receiving device receives from the user a request to present an available membership service for the user, and
wherein said processing system further comprises:
a selecting device extracting, from among the plurality of service tables, a first membership condition from a service table of a current service of which the user has become a member, and a second membership condition from at least one service table of at least one other service of which the user has not become a member in response to the request, comparing the first and second membership conditions, and selecting an eligible service of which the user can become a member; and
a presenting device presenting information to the user about the eligible service of which the user can become a member.
2. (previously presented) The processing system as set forth in claim 1, wherein when the user is a member of at least two services, said selecting device totals membership conditions of the at least two services using an AND operation and compares a totaled membership condition with the second membership condition of the service of which the user has not become a member.
3. (previously presented) The processing system as set forth in claim 2,
further comprising a registering device registering common certificate information that is in common with the at least two services, wherein said receiving device receives certificate information of the user, and

wherein, when the certificate information of the user corresponds to the common certificate information, said selecting device obtains the membership conditions of the at least two services based on the certificate information of the user.

4. (currently amended) A processing system, comprising:

a storing device storing a plurality of membership qualification tables of a plurality of ~~services-independent services provided by a plurality of respective different organizations in a~~ membership qualification system, each of the plurality of membership qualification tables including qualification criterion information for qualifying membership of a corresponding service and defining a prescribed service of which a user ought to be a member to have a membership qualification for the corresponding service, and identification information of a first service of the plurality of services being included by qualification criterion information for qualifying membership of a second service of the plurality of services for indicating the prescribed service;

a receiving device receiving information of a user for whom membership qualification is performed;

a first determining device determining, in response to the information of the user, whether the user is utilizing the first service when the user wants to become a member of the second service; and

a second determining device determining that the user has a membership qualification for the second service by referring to the membership qualification table of the second service and checking that the identification information of the first service is included in the qualification criterion information of the second service when the user is utilizing the first service.

5. (previously presented) The processing system as set forth in claim 4,

further comprising a registering device registering certificate information for a service that the user is utilizing,

wherein said receiving device receives identification information of the certificate information of the user, and

wherein when the identification information corresponds to the registered certificate information, said first determining device obtains information about the service that the user is utilizing based on the identification information and determines whether or not the user is utilizing the first service.

6. (currently amended) A processing system, comprising:
a storing device storing a plurality of service tables of a plurality of existing ~~services~~
independent services provided by a plurality of respective different organizations in a
membership qualification system, each of the plurality of service tables including a membership
condition of a corresponding service of the plurality of existing services;
a designating device designating a new membership condition;
a simulating device comparing each membership condition of the service tables of the
existing services with the new membership condition, adding information of users who are
members of an existing service to a member count table when the new membership condition
satisfies an old membership condition of the existing service, and obtaining new member
information about a number of users who can become members of another service
corresponding to the new membership condition by counting a number of pieces of information
contained in the member count table; and
an output device outputting the new member information about the number of the users.

7. (previously presented) The processing system as set forth in claim 6,
further comprising a registering device registering a plurality of pieces of certificate
information of the plurality of users who are utilizing the existing services,
wherein said simulating device adds certificate information of the users who are the
members of the existing service to the member count table when the new membership condition
satisfies the old membership condition of the existing service, counts a number of the pieces of
certificate information contained in the member count table, and obtains the number of users
who can become the members of the other service corresponding to the new membership
condition.

8. (previously presented) A computer-readable recording medium as set forth in claim 9,
wherein by said receiving the computer receives from the user a request to present an
available membership service for the user, and
wherein said method further comprises:
extracting, in response to the request, from among a plurality of service tables of
the services, each of which includes a first membership condition of a current service of which
the user has become a member, and a second membership condition from at least one service
table of at least one other service of which the user has not become a member;
comparing the first and second membership conditions;

selecting an eligible service of which the user can become a member; and
presenting information to the user about the eligible service of which the user can become a member.

9. (currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium on which a program for a computer is recorded, said program causing the computer to perform a method comprising:
receiving information of a user for whom membership qualification is performed;
determining whether the user is utilizing a first service in a membership qualification system using membership qualification tables of services independent services provided by a plurality of respective different organizations, each of the membership qualification tables including qualification criterion information for qualifying membership of a corresponding service and defining a prescribed service of which a user ought to be a member to have a membership qualification for the corresponding service, when the user wants to become a member of a second service in the membership qualification system based on the identification information of the first service included in the qualification criterion information for qualifying membership of the second service; and

determining that the user has a membership qualification for the second service by referring to the membership qualification table of the second service and checking that the identification information of the first service is included in the qualification criterion information of the second service when the user is utilizing the first service.

10. (currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium on which at least one program for a computer is recorded, said at least one program causing the computer to perform:

storing service tables of existing services independent services provided by a plurality of respective different organizations, each of the service tables including a membership condition of a corresponding service of the existing services;

designating a new membership condition;

comparing each membership condition of the service tables of the existing services in a membership qualification system with the new membership condition;

adding information of users who are members of an existing service to a member count table when the new membership condition satisfies an old membership condition of the existing service;

obtaining new member information about a number of users who can become members of another service corresponding to the new membership condition by counting a number of pieces of information contained in the member count table; and

outputting the new member information about the number of the users.

11. (previously presented) The processing method as set forth in claim 12, wherein said storing includes storing a plurality of service tables of the services, each of the service tables including a membership condition of a corresponding service,

wherein said receiving includes receiving from the user a request to present an available membership service for the user,

wherein said processing method further comprises:

extracting, in response to the request, from among the plurality of service tables, a first membership condition from a service table of a current service of which the user has become a member and a second membership condition from at least one service table of at least one other service of which the user has not become a member;

comparing the first and second membership conditions; and

selecting an eligible service of which the user can become a member, and

wherein said displaying includes displaying information about the eligible service of which the user can become a member on the screen.

12. (currently amended) A processing method, comprising:

referencing the qualification criterion information for qualifying membership of a first service in a membership qualification system using membership qualification tables of ~~services~~ independent services provided by a plurality of respective different organizations, each of the membership qualification tables including qualification criterion information for qualifying membership of a corresponding service and defining a prescribed service of which a user ought to be a member to have a membership qualification for the corresponding service, when a user wants to become a member of the first service;

receiving information of a user for whom membership qualification is performed;

determining, in response to the information of the user, whether the user is utilizing a second service in the membership qualification system based on the identification information of the second service included in the qualification criterion information;

determining that the user has a membership qualification for the first service by referring to the membership qualification table of the first service and checking that the identification

information of the second service is included in the qualification criterion information of the first service when the user is utilizing the second service; and
displaying a qualification result on a screen.

13. (currently amended) A processing method for simulating relation between a membership condition for a service and a number of users, comprising:

storing service tables of ~~existing services~~ independent services provided by a plurality of respective different organizations, each of the service tables including a membership condition of a corresponding service of the existing services;

designating a new membership condition;

comparing each membership condition of the service tables of the existing services in a membership qualification system with the new membership condition;

adding information of users who are members of an existing service to a member count table when the new membership condition satisfies an old membership condition of the existing service;

obtaining new member information of a number of users that can become members of another service corresponding to the new membership condition by counting a number of pieces of information contained in the member count table; and

displaying the new member information about the number of the users on a screen.

14. (currently amended) The processing system as set forth in claim 15,
wherein said storing means stores a plurality of service tables of the services, each of which includes a membership condition of a corresponding service,

wherein said receiving means receives from the user a request to present an available membership service for the user, and

wherein said processing system further comprises:

selecting means for extracting, from among the plurality of service tables, a first membership condition from a service table of a current service of which the user has become a member and a second membership condition from at least one service table of at least one other service of which the user has not become a member in response to the request, comparing the first and second membership conditions, and selecting an eligible service of which the user can become a member; and

presenting means for presenting information to the user about the eligible service of which the user can become a member.

15. (currently amended) A processing system, comprising:

storing means for storing membership qualification tables of services independent services provided by a plurality of respective different organizations in a membership qualification system, each of the membership qualification tables including qualification criterion information for qualifying membership of a corresponding service and defining a prescribed service of which a user ought to be a member to have a membership qualification for the corresponding service, and identification information of a first service included in the qualification criterion information for qualifying membership of a second service for indicating the prescribed service;

a receiving device receiving information of a user for whom membership qualification is performed;

first determining means for determining, in response to the information of the user, whether the user is utilizing the first service when the user wants to become a member of the second service; and

second determining means for determining that the user has a membership qualification for the second service by referring to the membership qualification table of the second service and checking that the identification information of the first service is included in the qualification criterion information of the second service when the user is utilizing the first service.

16. (currently amended) A processing system, comprising:

storing means for storing service tables of a existing services independent services provided by a plurality of respective different organizations in a membership qualification system, each of the service tables including a membership condition of a corresponding service of the existing services;

designating means for designating a new membership condition;

simulating means for comparing each membership condition of the service tables of the existing services with the new membership condition, adding information of users who are members of an existing service to a member count table when the new membership condition satisfies an old membership condition of the existing service, and obtaining new member information about a number of users who can become members of another service corresponding to the new membership condition by counting a number of pieces of information contained in the member count table; and

output means for outputting the new member information about the number of the users.

17. (currently amended) The computer accessible transfer medium as set forth in claim 18, said program further causing the computer to perform:

extracting, from a plurality of service tables of the services, a first membership condition from a service table of a current service in a membership qualification system of which a user has become a member and a second membership condition from at least one service table of at least one other service in the membership qualification system of which the user has not become a member in response to the request;

comparing the first and second membership conditions;

selecting an eligible service of which the user can become a member; and

presenting information to the user about the eligible service of which the user can become a member.

18. (currently amended) A computer accessible transfer medium supplying a program to a computer, said program causing the computer to perform:

receiving information of a user for whom membership qualification is performed;

determining, in response to the information of the user, whether the user is utilizing a first service in a membership qualification system using membership qualification tables of ~~services independent services provided by a plurality of respective different organizations~~, each of the membership qualification tables including qualification criterion information for qualifying membership of a corresponding service and defining a prescribed service of which a user ought to be a member to have a membership qualification for the corresponding service, when the user wants to become a member of a second service in the membership qualification system based on identification information of the first service included in qualification criterion information for qualifying membership of the second service; and

determining that the user has a membership qualification for the second service by referring to the membership qualification table of the second service and checking that the identification information of the first service is included in the qualification criterion information of the second service when the user is utilizing the first service.

19. (currently amended) A computer accessible transfer medium supplying a program to a computer, said program causing the computer to perform:

storing service tables of existing ~~services~~ independent services provided by a plurality of respective different organizations, each of the service tables including a membership condition of a corresponding service of the existing services;

designating a new membership condition;

comparing each membership condition of the service tables of the existing services in a membership qualification system with the new membership condition;

adding information of users who are members of an existing service to a member count table when the new membership condition satisfies an old membership condition of the existing service;

obtaining new member information about a number of users who can become members of another service corresponding to the new membership condition by counting a number of pieces of information contained in the member count table; and

outputting the new member information about the number of the users.